

C. C. F.

Committee Rooms

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N.P. 104

The C. C. F. and Social Services

WHAT ARE SOCIAL SERVICES ?

In the widest sense of the term "Social Services" may be taken to mean all services rendered by organized Government—Education, Police Protection, Health Services, and so on—but in common practice the term is used to refer only to such services as Pensions, Relief, Child Welfare, Care of Delinquents.

WHY ARE SOCIAL SERVICES NECESSARY ?

Under peace-time conditions great numbers of would-be workers are unable to find employment. Being without employment they are unable to support themselves or care for their families. The old are discarded in the labor market. The young cannot find work. Widows and orphans are left destitute and unprotected. Communities are unable to cope with the rising tide of unemployment, bad housing conditions, overcrowding and disease.

CAPITALISM THE CAUSE.

Capitalism through control of the financial system, of natural resources, and of power machinery has gained almost dictatorial power over the lives of the people.

Capitalism by producing profit for the few has forced great numbers into poverty or semi-poverty.

Capitalism encourages a brutal disregard of the rights and the needs of the weak, the sick and the under-privileged.

Capitalism by dividing the people into the wealthy and the poverty-stricken is the major cause of delinquency and crime.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY.

Even under the present Capitalistic economy, public opinion has forced Governments to assume a degree of responsibility for those citizens who are unable to care for themselves. But under the present Government set-up, the Social Services are neither adequate in scope nor efficiently administered.

AN IDEAL SOCIALIST STATE.

In an ideal society there are none of the present aggravations of massed money on the one hand and extreme poverty on the other. Instead there is a state where poverty has vanished, where every member of society is adequately housed, clothed and fed, where education is free to all, where economic security is the acknowledged right of every individual, where hours of labor are shortened, where there are recreation and leisure-time pursuits of high quality, where delinquency and crime have ceased to torment the body politic, and where wars have ceased to blight.

Such an ideal state of society cannot be reached for many long years, nevertheless the C.C.F. will constantly press toward such a goal.

TRANSITION PERIOD.

The C.C.F. has a definite program and policy for the Social Services during the transition period. Even under a Capitalist economy there is much that can be done to improve living conditions.

TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE.

It is self-evident that whatever luxuries must be dispensed with in these days of stress and strain the young must not be handicapped in their development. Greater effort must be put forth to see that children and youth are properly fed and that they are trained not only to work under modern conditions but in the years to come to take over the gigantic task of re-establishing a tottering civilization. If any advance is to be made in democracy it must be by the development of better not poorer citizens.

Every child should have this essential environment:

- (a) A home in which to develop decency, honor, self-respect.
- (b) A school and a community in which to secure adequate training for life.
- (c) Recreation in which to find emotional release.
- (d) Directive or vocational guidance in deciding what line of work to undertake.

FAILURE IN THE PAST.

A very considerable portion of the population have not had this essential environment. Many have lacked comfortable homes, many have been denied education, many have lacked wholesome recreation, few have had the advantage of competent guidance in choosing and in securing work.

Hence, there are countless misfits: people in business who should be on farms, people on farms who should be in the professions, people in the professions who should be builders or machinists, girls doing house-work who should be artists, girls seeking careers who should be homemakers.

Nor is this all.

Because of faulty home-life, unwholesome community environment, unstable economic surroundings and goal-less educational programs, large numbers of potentially decent citizens have become lawbreakers and a charge on the state.

A SERIOUS SITUATION.

Youthful delinquents become adult criminals unless they can be reclaimed as useful law-abiding citizens.

Compare these figures:

England and Wales	29.9 prisoners per 100,000 population
Canada	114.7 prisoners per 100,000 population

Why does Canada compare so adversely with the Mother Country?

THE BORSTAL SYSTEM.

One contributing factor in England's low rate is this: under the Borstal System, England reclaims more than 90 per cent of her youthful lawbreakers. The Borstal System emphasizes practical education and technical training for all juvenile delinquents. Borstal separates various classes of offenders and arranges sympathetic unofficial supervision over those released from Borstal Schools until such time as they are competent to look after themselves.

PRISON REFORM.

Efforts to reclaim the delinquent should not end with the juvenile. Every effort should be made to restore the adult lawbreaker to self-respecting citizenship. He should be given instruction and training. As a lawbreaker he costs the state no small sum of money. As a law-abiding citizen he can share in the work and the responsibilities of the nation.

Prison reform is long overdue.

THE ESSENTIAL TASK.

The essential task of democracy is to provide for all its citizens the opportunity to live at the highest standard to which their abilities may lead them.

The C.C.F. will endeavor as rapidly as possible to give to every citizen, the opportunity for such a way of life.

SOCIAL SERVICES — THE C.C.F. POLICY

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1. PENSIONS.

The C.C.F. will:

1. Increase the Mothers' Allowance so as to provide an adequate standard of living for widowed or deserted mothers with young children.
2. Establish pensions for the crippled, the deaf, and others who are unable to care for themselves.
3. Raise the amount of the Old Age Pension and continue to bring pressure to bear on the Federal Government to lower the age qualification. Pensions shall not be chargeable against the recipient's property.

2. RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

The C.C.F. will:

1. Provide practical and technical training for the unemployed.
2. Open work projects in developing the Natural Resources.
3. Set up "manning depots" to give assistance and direction to those seeking employment or change of employment.
4. Protect employees by extending and enforcing the provisions of the Minimum Wage Act.

3. CHILD WELFARE AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.

The C.C.F. will:

1. Extend the services already being given in the field of Child Protection.
2. Foster adult education classes in Child Welfare.
3. Establish Vocational Guidance Clinics to give advice and guidance to young people in deciding on the line of work for which they are best fitted.

4. CARE OF DELINQUENTS.

The C.C.F. will:

1. Institute the Borstal System for the care and training of youthful offenders.
2. Reform the Prison System within the jurisdiction of the province.

5. THE C. C. F. WILL:

remove the Social Services from the field of party politics and will wherever possible employ trained and competent workers and administrators.

For additional supplies of this pamphlet, write to:

C.C.F. CENTRAL OFFICE, 510 KERR BUILDING, REGINA, SASK.

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